

SAINTS MARKELLA AND DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

104 Bryn Mawr Blvd, Mary Esther, FL 32569

Office: 850-244-0822 * Fax: 850-243-7995 * Email: office@stmarkella.orgWebsite: www.stmarkella.org * Facebook: www.facebook.com/stsmarkellademetriusFather Thomas Guerry, Pastor * Cell: 850-598-0152 * Email: thomasguerry@gmail.com

11th Sunday of Luke

St. Dionysios of Zakynthos



The holy hierarch, Saint Dionysius, who was born and reared on Zakynthos, was the son of pious and wealthy parents, Mocius and Paulina by name. In his youth he entered the ancient monastery of the Strophada Islands, which lie south of Zakynthos, and there he donned the monastic habit. Later, he was appointed Archbishop of Aegina, and adorned its throne for a considerable time. Thereafter he returned to his homeland. One incident in his life especially reveals to what virtue he attained. A man came to him in desperation, witnessing that he had committed a murder, and was being pursued by the slain man's family. He asked Saint Dionysius to give him refuge. The Saint agreed to this, upon learning that it was his own brother whom the man had slain, he said nothing, but concealing the agony of his grief, hid him. When the Saint's kinsmen arrived at the monastery, he told them that the Murderer had gone by such and such a way. When they had departed, he admonished the man concerning the gravity

of his sin, instructed him in repentance, and sent him off in peace having forgiven him his brother's murder. According to local tradition, this man later returned and became a monk at this same monastery. Saint Dionysius reposed in peace in 1621, leaving behind his sacred and incorrupt relics as a treasure for his fellow citizens.

Worship Guide

December 17, 2017

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Tone

Let all things above in heav'n rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

For the Forefathers. Mode 2.

By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Troparion of St. Markella in the First Tone

Obedient to the laws of the Lord and to His divine teachings, you kept them blamelessly, O Markella and being frightened of the violence of your father who pursued you. O pure bride of Christ you hid in the mountains where he found you and took your life. Glory to Him who has given you strength, Glory to Him who has crowned you, Glory to Him who works healings through you to everyone.

Troparion of St. Demetrios in the Third Tone

The world found in you a great champion in danger. A victor who could turn the nations back. As you restrained Levi in the arena, you also inspired Nestor to courage. Therefore, Holy Great Martyr Demetrios, entreat Christ God, to grant us great, great

Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Tone

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word inefably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

EPISTLE READING

Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11

Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 4. Psalm 67 (68)

Bless God in the churches, the Lord from the fountains of Israel.

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel According to Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

TODAY IN OUR PARISH

***Recognition of Outgoing Parish Council Members
Archangel Michael Award Presentations
Philoptochos Vasilopita Sale***

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

6:30pm: Orthodoxy 101

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

9:30am: Bible Study

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

9:00am Orthros

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Christmas Nativity Pageant Presented by Sunday School



Facebook.com/StsMarkellaDemetrios

Website: www.stmarkella.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE OF FORMER CHURCH COMMITTEE

Our Parish is asking for persons to work on the Committee established at the November General Assembly to study the question of determining the future of the Former Church Building. Please see Fr. Thomas, Keith Fletcher or Parish Council for details.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Our current church office hours are Monday, Wednesday –Friday from 9am. Fr. Thomas' day off is still on Tuesday. You may reach Fr. by phone or text 24/7. We thank Donna Watkins for her work in the Parish this year. Her time of service has been completed.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY YEARS!

Congratulations to Florin Lazar and Clementina Kubiak, whose son Paul Lazar was baptized into the faith on Sunday, December 10th.

PHILOTOCHOS NEWS

Vasilopita Sale—We are selling Vasilopita again today. Loaves are \$10 each, including a \$1 coin. They make great Christmas gifts! Please see us in the hall.

Thank You to all who donated underwear for Children in Crisis and gifts for adults at the Fort Walton Beach Development Center.

NATIVITY LITURGY SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24th, 9am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord: Monday, December 25th, 9am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy

NATIVITY PAGEANT

Our Sunday school students will present the Nativity Pageant Sunday, December 24, following the Divine Liturgy, in the Church. Please see Connie Morgan for details and practice dates.



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: *Open*

Coffee Hour Next Week: Open



USHERS: Cookie Kostopoulos, Steve Paros, and Jeanette Rosa

GREETERS: Gene Bass and Mark Simunovich

ALTAR BOYS TEAM: Zacharias Fletcher, Nicolai Kasch,

Jonathan Morgan, Efstathios Sneider,

Constantine Sneider

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us today for worship. This is information to help make your worship experience more meaningful.

At 10:00 am the Divine Liturgy, which is the main worship service of the Orthodox Church, begins with the words from the priest "Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...".

The beginning of the service may be found on page 1 of the small red book entitled The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. Each Sunday the Epistle, Gospel and certain hymns change to express what is being celebrated that day. This guide has them printed out for you so you may follow along more easily.

We welcome people of all faiths and denominations to worship with us and appreciate your presence. For those who are not Orthodox Christians we ask that you not receive the Holy Communion when it is offered to the congregation. Those visitors who are Orthodox Christians may receive Communion provided you normally receive at your home parish and have not been restricted in any way. For Orthodox Christians, when in doubt whether to receive or not, please ask Fr. Thomas in advance and he will be happy to advise you.

For those of you visiting an Orthodox Christian Church for the first time, we pray that you have a very meaningful worship experience.

Orthodox worship reaches all five senses. Through sight with the icons, church architecture and the movement of worship; through smell with the use of incense; through sound through the beauty of the Church music; through taste with the receiving of Holy Communion; and through touch with lighting of candles, crossing oneself, and the veneration of icons.

You will find that the Orthodox place a great emphasis on reverence in worship. Our reverence is serious, but also very joyful as well.

Please ask one of the attendants in the Narthex (the back of the church) if you have any questions. May God continue to bless and keep all of us.

PRAY FOR YOUR LOVED ONES

Please bring names of your loved ones, both living and deceased, so the priest may pray for them. We pray for all people. With Divine Liturgy, the names of the Orthodox are commemorated during the Proskomidi (the Preparation of the Gifts) and during Liturgy.

Erica Ailes	Steve Stephanopoulos	Dana Visoiu
Dorothy Eshelman	Mary Ann Carr	Fr. George Dursa
Ariel McBroom	Nancy Janos	Angela McBroom
Katia Antonis	Stanojka Stevanovic	Badra Walters
Zachary Fletcher	Vonni Cobb	Fr. Thomas Newlin
Nicholas McBroom	Mary Spiridoula Kalista	Litsa Carrion
Marina Newlin	David Stewart	Angela Hlavity
Chryssoula Henderson	Angela Walters Comfort	Edward Scruggs & Family
Butch Otis	Philip Kanellopoulos	Constantine Sneider
The Boltz Family	Janet Sutherland	Janice Parton
Jim Hobson	Max Copeland	Jamie Douglas
Tina Puffer	Sheree Kanellopoulos	Gene & Alexis Bass
Lark Tringas Bostick	Sue and John Tullis	Col. Philip Trexler
Jake Hoskin	Tsao Chien Din	George Karov
Xaire Sheikho	Carl Kruljac	
Kathy Bowdoin & Family	Lou Vagias, Sr.	All service men and women who
Cleopatra Hughes & Family	Julie Mamani	are deployed overseas

2017 PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Thomas Guerry	thomasguerry@gmail.com	598-0152 C
Pres. Keith Fletcher	kfletcher66@gmail.com	279-3842 H/217-6524 C
George Boltz	gboltz@vikingrange.com	375-1318 C
Tim Bulger	timothy.bulger@yahoo.com	240-9144 C
Secy Oana Cazacu	Cazacu@reef.ufl.edu	423-0535 H
VP Linda Holoviak	linda.holoviak@bcunited.com	865-0950 C
Craig Kasch	americanflagfund@gmail.com	420-0085 C
Treas Dale Perkins	dale.perkins@live.com	826-2508
Alex Tringas	a_tringas@yahoo.com	664-6751

The Following Individuals/Families Have Submitted a Pledge Card for 2017:

Gene and Thea Bass	Karl and Sandy Trammell
Andrew and Toni Nicolopoulos	Georgia Jensen
Kathryn Bastian	Lou Vagias, Sr
Betty Jo Billups	Frederick and Panagiota Johnson
Joe and Despina O'Neil	Panagis and Irene Vallianatos
Stella Benaquis	Craig and Mariya Kasch
Nicholas and Tanya Papadopoulos	Vaselike Betty Vallianatos
Vonni Cobb	Cookie Kostopoulos
Samuel and Nora Pappas	Nick and Candace Vlahos
Barbara Denamur	Helen Kuritz
Edward and Michelle Parimuha	John Walker
Sophia Dudek	Colin and Lydia LaFavor
Steve and Veta Paros	Harold and Joyce Walter
Trina Fallon	Angela and Andrew McBroom
Anastas and Betsy Pazevic	Mary Walters
Laszlo and Ionela Feczko	Rodney and Jamilah Williams
Dale and Molly Perkins	Mike and Susan Horner
Scott and Lynne Fehrenbach	Lou and Maria McCloud
Magdi and Hoda Rizk	George and Nina Michas
Keith and Rebecca Fletcher	Dr. Elizabeth Michas
Jeannette Rosa	George Karov
Alan and Mary Gardner	John and Connie Morgan
Laith and Safaa Sahawneh	Matthew and Megan Morgan
Lena Giannios	Harold and Anita Diamond
Joann Yanora-Salazar	Katy Kruljac
Terri Grammas	Joseph Abbate
Florin Lazar	Charles & Margaret Abbate
Mark and Iris Simunovich	Anthony & Miriam Aldehneh
Tom and Janice Hewlett	Kathleen Reed
Michael and Alexandra Sneider	Garry & Patty Overholt
Linda and Nick Holojiak	Paul & Candace Lamitina
Angelos and Katrina Thomas	Eugenia Ursu
Cleopatra Hughes	Veronica & Ruslan Josan
	Tim & Vicki Boolos
	Oana Cazacu
	Malpa Fuller
	Alan & Mary Gardner
	Jason Harris

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

(Joshua 24:15)